

Rubiães



Ponte de Lima



Day

[2]18 km
± 5h00

➔ 41°53'48" N 8°37'28" W

Day 2 | CHURCHES AND MANOR HOUSES OF THE GREEN LIMA

Rubiães ➤ Ponte de Lima

The second stage of the Route **begins in Rubiães**, at the Church of St. Peter and **ends in the town of Ponte de Lima**, at the Church of St. Anthony of the Old Tower in the Arnado Theme Park. It covers 18 km and can be walked in 5 hours. With altitudes ranging from 10 m to 400 m it crosses a diverse landscape, consisting of **mountains, valleys, forests and plains**, and is criss-crossed by a number of rivers and streams spanned by bridges. It is a **pleasant and calm stage of the Route**, with some very easy sections and just a few steeper ones that require a slower walking pace.

It is the first part of this stage, the Labruja Mountains, which poses a degree of difficulty. Here, the route is a winding one and has a number of climbs that require more energy. As one heads in a southerly direction and draws nearer the final destination, green fertile fields emerge alongside the banks of the River Lima. Amidst this **diversity**, there are always reasons for walking slowly and pausing

➤ 41°53'6" N 8°37'10" W



from time to time, whereby the duration of the walk can be extended in accordance with people's specific interests.

Over the course of this stage, which passes through the Municipalities of Paredes de Coura and Ponte de Lima, the natural setting provides striking **views of impressive beauty**. Likewise, the local customs reflect a profound relationship with ancestral traditions. At every step of the way one encounters expressions of a **multifaceted cultural heritage**, including various stone crosses, memorials and pillories. Of particular relevance are the **baroque manor houses**, large noble residences built in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, many of which now offer tourist accommodation.

Having left **Rubiães** and following a short stretch along the N201, the Route makes its way through a wooded rural landscape.

In **Aqualonga**, it passes a few metres from the **Parish Church of St. Pelagius** with a traditional façade and bell tower, built and adorned in the baroque manner. Returning to the Route, and slightly further on, the elegant **Chapel of Carvalho** appears on the right, with a bell tower crowning its façade. Then head for Romarigães, where you can bring to mind the writer Aquilino Ribeiro (1885-1963) and his novel entitled *A Casa Grande de Romarigães* (*The Manor House of Romarigães*).

Always following multi-use paths (roads and rural footpaths), the Route enters into the territory of the **Municipality of Ponte de Lima**. Now, you are in midst of the **Labruja mountains**. Here, one has to muster one's strength and reduce the pace.

You will reach the **village of Labruja**, through which flows the river with the same name, a tributary of the River Lima. It is a village with ancient historical roots, as its architectural heritage demonstrates. The **Parish Church**, which has a façade with a side tower and a Baroque broken pediment, emerges from the landscape with a small cluster of simple houses.

In Labruja one can pause, and veer off the route a short distance to discover **the Sanctuary of the Lord of Succour**, a grand baroque building with rococo decoration, it is set in a square with a flight of steps leading up to it. The façade is flanked by two towers and elaborately decorated.



►► 41°52'15" N 8°36'53" W

The contrast of white and natural granite is typical of Northern Portuguese Baroque architecture, which was influenced by the work of the Italian architect Nicolau Nasoni. This monument, which hosts an annual pilgrimage on the first Sunday of July, is classified as national heritage.

The final section of this second stage of the Route crosses farmers' fields and the rural landscape of the parish of **Arcozelo**. Of particular interest in Arcozelo's historic centre is the twelfth-century **Parish Church of St. Marina**, which has a stone façade crowned by a cross. The side tower, along with the majority of the interior decoration, was undertaken in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Following the old rural footpath, which is today called the Rua das Cancelinhas, on the right is the **Pomarchão Manor House** and Estate, with the large house and chapel having been classified as national heritage. It is a noteworthy example of a seventeenth-century tower-house, that was extended in the eighteenth-century, and its façade incorporates a verandah. The Pomarchão Manor House, classified as national heritage, is a classic example of a **baroque manor house**, and today it provides tourist accommodation.

We then reach **Ponte de Lima**. Follow Rua das Tojeiras, and then take Caminho de Oliveirinha, you will then arrive at the historic Arnado Field on the right bank of the River Lima. The **Church of St. Anthony of the Old Tower**, built at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries, has an elongated nave and a tower above the altar.

➔ 41°46'10" N 8°35'16" W



It is dedicated to the Virgin and located on a historic terrain or churchyard next to the monumental Roman and medieval bridge that leads to the heart of the town's historic centre.

In addition to the typical **pilgrims' hostel**, in Ponte de Lima there are also other forms of logistical support as may be required. On arriving you may want to have a rest, otherwise you can make the most of both the **rural and urban landscape** wander the streets, visiting the local sights, and savouring the specialities of the **local cuisine**. Plan your visit in accordance with the time available and your spiritual and cultural interests. You can visit the city on the day you arrive, or in the morning, the following day.

The historic town of **Ponte de Lima merits careful attention** in order to appreciate the extraordinary work of art that has been created through the relationship between river and town. Its location at the juncture of ancient Roman roads, that subsequently became medieval ones, gave rise to the first settlement. In 1125, within the context of the Condado Portucalense (the County of Portugal, a vassal region that was the foundation for the Kingdom of Portugal), the Countess Dona Teresa issued



➔ 41°46'10" N 8°35'16" W

a municipal charter to Terra da Ponte, which came to be called Ponte de Lima. In the fourteenth century, King Pedro I ordered for the walls, interspersed with defensive towers, to be built. At that time it had become one of the most important towns in the Lima Valley and a resting point for pilgrims walking the Way of Saint James.

The town's plan and **architecture** adhere to a medieval model, although in the eighteenth century it was given a more monumental Baroque appearance. With regard to religious architecture of particular importance is the romanescque and gothic **Main Church**, the **Church of Misericórdia** – with impressive carving and interior decoration –, the historic **Church of the Third Order of Saint Francis** – an imposing Baroque complex and now the site of the museum – and the aforementioned Church of St. Anthony of the Old Tower. With regard to Ponte de Lima's urban heritage and civil architecture, aside from the town as a whole and the remnants of the walls that protected it, of special importance is **the pillory**, the **Council Chambers**, the **Fountain**, and the aforementioned **bridge over the Lima** (classified as a national monument), and also a number of **noble houses and manor houses** in the town's centre and outlying area. With regard to the town's **rich intangible heritage** we should not forget the **culinary arts** – confectionery, gastronomy and Vinho Verde –, nor the **traditional festivals and local pilgrimages** which above all take place in the summer.

➔ 41°46'9" N 8°35'10" W

